

California GARDEN



July/August 2008

Volume 99 No. 4 \$4.00

Dahlia's

Chinese Hybrid Cypress • Touring Descanso Gardens • Hòn Non Bô

Summer Concert Series

at Quail Botanical Gardens

Gilbert Castellanos

Sunday, July 20: Rob Mullins Trio

Grammy nominee Rob Mullins has international acclaim as an American pianist and composer. Three of his CDs went Billboard Top Ten. His current and 17th CD, "Storyteller," breaks new ground combining new genres with his early sounds to take piano music to a new level.

Sunday, August 3: Gilbert Castellanos Latin Jazz Quintet featuring Irving Flores

Gilbert Castellanos is a major force on the San Diego jazz scene and one of the leading trumpeters in the Southern California area. Downbeat Magazine recently voted him one of the top trumpet players in the country and one of the top 25 jazz artists to watch.

Sunday, August 17: Raggle Taggle

This band has a jazz and Celtic sound that is truly unique. From Pirate music to French Gypsy Swing to Latin Jazz, and Nuevo-Flamenco to Celtic-Irish—there's a little something for everyone when you come to see a Raggle Taggle show. This concert will feature some amazing Irish dancers, too.

Theatre-style seating on the Lawn Garden is the perfect place to listen to the sweet sounds of jazz on a warm Southern California evening.

Each concert features an optional catered gourmet dinner served in the intimate Walled Garden at 5 PM.

The show begins at 5:45 PM.



Rob Mullins

Photo: Courtesy of Rob Mullins



Raggle Taggle

Photo: Courtesy of Raggle Taggle

To buy tickets, call 760/ 436-3036 x206.

Cost per concert with dinner, 5 PM: Members \$40, non-members \$45
(Please make your reservations by 1 PM Wednesday before the concert.)

Cost per concert only, 5:45 PM: Members \$20, non-members \$22





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California GARDEN

THE MAGAZINE FOR HANDS-ON GARDENERS AND FLORAL DESIGNERS

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From the President

It has been an honor, a challenge and a pleasure to have served as our association president the past two years.

An honor to help lead a dedicated organization in the mission they chose at their inception, to provide horticultural education to San Diego citizens.

A challenge to provide and fund Centennial activities to honor our 100 year presence; to build on the efforts of others to enlarge and improve *California Garden* magazine; and to provide services to our members and affiliates.

A pleasure to see projects we began in 2006 come to fruition through increased publicity, fund raising efforts and member participation.

I am grateful to members and the public for the efforts made on behalf of our venerable organization, and I will continue to assist as ex-Officio member when needed. We are fortunate to have an outstanding slate of officers and board directors to present to the membership at our June meeting. Seven nominees are members who will be new to the board or are filling out terms for a retiring member. Seven will be returning board members.

The year 2009 will be another special event in Floral history. We will celebrate the 100th year of publication of *California Garden* Magazine. A volume of SDFA history, as recorded in our magazine, will be published as part of our recognition of the longevity and progress of our organization and its publication.

Additional activities will be planned by the *California Garden* Centennial Committee. Your ideas for this celebration would be appreciated. Please email them to me at shipdragon@earthlink.net or mail them to the Floral office, attention K. Harry.

My final request to all members who attend our events, or who just enjoy reading *California Garden*, would be that each of you bring a new member to an event, encourage your friends with horticultural interests to join, and share your magazine to entice friends to join us. Or, best of all, celebrate a friend's special day with a gift membership. What can you give that will be enjoyed all through the year and remind someone of your friendship? SDFA will be indebted for your interest and efforts.

Roy Harry

MOVING? Please let us know.

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HOW'D THEY DO THAT?

EVER LOOK AT A BEAUTIFUL FLORAL ARRANGEMENT, GARDEN ACCENT OR WELL-MAINTAINED PLANT AND WONDER HOW IT CAME TO BE? Well stop wondering and start doing! San Diego Floral Association Workshops are a great place to learn new skills and meet new people. Starting in September 2008, we're launching a whole new series of classes that will appeal to anyone interested in learning how to create fun and interesting items.



PHOTO: AMY R. WOOD

There will be floral arranging courses for all skill levels, including special classes focusing on unique design concepts and preparation for floral shows. There will also be horticulture classes and craft how-tos.

SDFA members receive discounts, but all courses are open to the public. For more information about upcoming workshops, keep your eye trained on this space, call the SDFA office at 619-232-5762 or visit the website at www.sdfloral.org. Hope to see you this fall!

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Summertime Flower Design

July and August are great months for a refreshing underwater design to put on the patio table or indoors for a summer party. These designs are especially nice using tropical flowers and seashells. They are quite easy to make and require very few supplies.

Start with a good-sized clear glass container; any shape will do, and a fish bowl or terrarium works well. Make sure it is very clean and dry. Place a heavy metal pin holder, also called a kenzan or frog, in the bottom of the container. These are available at floral supply shops or craft stores and are great to have in your flower arranging supply kit. Purchase long stemmed tropical flowers at the farmers' market, Trader Joe's or other local florist. You will need about six stems of one of the following type flowers: Calla lilies, ginger, bird of paradise, anthurium or heliconia. You will also need several stems of orchids, some heavy gauge decorative wire and three baby food jars. Succulents work well in these designs, too.

Cut palm fronds with scissors to make three, nice, different-sized shapes that will fit into the container without touching the sides. Leave room to place other plant material. Have the tallest palm coming out of the top of the container about as tall again as the container itself. Have the second frond right at the opening and have the third one about halfway up inside the container. On each side of the palms, right at the pin holder, insert two very short-stemmed flowers, one on each side of the palms. Cut all the plant material stems on the diagonal forming a point so they will easily insert into the pin holder.

Next, cut two more stems to reach about a third of the way up the inside of the container. Place them on each side of the palms. Cut the last two flowers so they come out of the container about half way between the top of the tallest palm and the lip of the bowl. (It is sometimes easier to put the stems into the pin holder outside of the container and then gently place it into the vase after the stems are firmly in place.) Fill in with succulents and/or tropical leaves for balance and rhythm.

After the design is placed into the container, add pebbles or shells in the bottom to hide the pin holder if it is showing. Carefully and slowly add the water, taking care not to stir up debris or bubbles. Wire around the top of each jar, leaving enough wire to form a loop to hang the wire over the lip of the larger container. Place each wired jar about one third of the way around the container, hanging a few inches from the top. Fill the baby food jars half full with pebbles or shells, then add water to just under the top of the pebbles or shells and add an orchid stem into each jar.



Let the orchid drape out and down the side of the container. Add a votive to the top of the pebbles or shells in each jar. The candles should be out of the water and away from the orchid stems. Scatter extra pebbles or shells and votives on the table around the outside of the arrangement. This design should last for about five days. — *Kathy Taylor DeMurrilo*

Alcazar Garden

Dig in!

Get to know one of Balboa Park's most popular gardens



The Alcazar Garden, located in Balboa Park between the Museum of Man and the Mingi International Museum, is a special trademark of Balboa Park. Originally created for the Panama-California Exposition of 1915, it was designated Los Jardines de Montezuma. Richard Requa redesigned the garden area for the 1935 San Diego Exposition inspired by the gardens at Alcazar Castle in Seville, Spain. Requa renamed the area the Alcazar Garden and added two tile fountains and eight tile benches. The garden is planted with over 7,000 annuals for vivid display of color year round.

The garden was last renovated in 1998 and restored to its original 1935 era design. During that renovation a shaded walkway—also known as a pergola—was added to the west end that now displays Chinese wisteria and bower vines.

Previously this year The Committee of One Hundred, a non-profit committee dedicated to preserving Spanish colonial architecture in the park, restored the deteriorating fountains and benches. Over 1,000 new tiles that matched the originals were installed. The entire project cost over \$50,000 and was raised completely by The Committee of One Hundred.

The thousands of annuals in four small beds and two large beds are changed three times a year in this seasonal changing display. This happens in spring, summer and once during the fall/winter period.

According to the Crystal Ritchie, Horticulturalist for Balboa Park, the perimeter beds of the garden were planted full of

sunflowers, Mexican marigolds and Mexican sunflowers and penstemons that were all grown from seed or cuttings at the Kate Sessions Nursery. Ritchie chooses the plants that are to be planted every season with the help of the Nursery Supervisor.

Ritchie says it is hard to determine what will be in each of the center beds each season because they have to rely on what is available commercially in such high quantities. Even though it is very difficult to predict what will be obtainable in the nurseries, Ritchie and the grounds maintenance staff work hard to maintain the formal Spanish/Mediterranean style and to create the ambience that people expect at Balboa Park.

"One of the things that I am really excited about is bringing more formality into the design of the garden beds. I'm going bed by bed to redesign each one," said Ritchie.

On the side beds, Ritchie allows for some playfulness. "We put giant sunflowers in the side beds. We love them even though they aren't traditionally considered a formal planting. Everyone, especially children, loves them."

One of Ritchie's favorite plants should be blooming in July and August. "The African tulip (*Spathodea campanulata*) tree will be in full bloom. It has a bright reddish orange tulip-shaped flower and it is one of my favorites. It is located in the northwest corner of the garden."

Open year-round, this garden is full of vibrant colors and historical architectural features, and is an attraction that draws visitors to Balboa Park throughout the year.

—Alyssa Holderbein

Invasive Eviction

Use *PlantRight.org* to help identify and eradicate invasive plants

As we transition into the dog days of summer, and the height of fire season, it's a good time to revisit a problem that affects all Californians: invasive plants.

Invasive plants are non-native species that have a detrimental effect on our landscape. Even though some invasive species are considered quite lovely to look at, and are at times planted deliberately by well-meaning gardeners, all are slowly eliminating native species as they spread unchecked into our natural areas. Invasive plants are endangering California's natural resources, eliminating precious biodiversity and creating a dangerous ecosystem. The plants are ill-equipped to survive in our unique climate and often turn to tinder without rain, creating even bigger fire storms when disaster strikes.

How can you take action? Start by visiting *PlantRight.org*, an online resource set up by the California Horticultural Invasives Prevention committee (Cal-HIP). The people supporting *PlantRight.org* are representatives from some of the most influential state and commercial horticulture groups, including the California Association of Nurseries and Garden

Centers, Huntington Botanical Gardens, California Landscape Contractors Association, California Department of Food and Agriculture and UC Cooperative Extension, Master Gardeners Program.

The simple goal behind *PlantRight.org* is to keep invasive plants in check. The site offers outstanding information for people interested in doing their part in digging out offending species and stocking their gardens with non-invasive plants. There are lists of invasive species, reading suggestions and business testimonials extolling the virtues of eschewing invasives. The best part? If you're attached to a particular plant and find it on the invasive list, the site offers recommended alternatives. (For instance, there are 14 alternatives to the periwinkle, *Vinca major*.) All alternatives are given a full description, and in some cases, information on sun and water requirements for the plant, as well. Now, more than ever, it's essential to protect the natural habitat surrounding us, and *PlantRight.org* is a great first step in that direction.

—Amy R. Wood

Friend or Foe: Diaprepes Root Weevil

The Diaprepes root weevil (*Diaprepes abbreviatus*) or citrus weevil is a colorful character in your garden, but it is capable of extreme damage to a large number of plants. It has been documented to feed on nearly 300 different plants in nearly 60 different species and is a major pest to citrus and ornamental plants.

Look for a weevil that is larger than most, from three-eighths to three-quarters inch long (10-19 mm). It has numerous forms, or morphs, and may be gray, yellow, orange or black with varied striping.

Adults chew distinctive semicircular notches on leaf edges of newer softer vegetation and leave droppings like dark specks called frass. If you notice this pattern, spread a sheet on the ground below the plant and shake the plant vigorously; the insect is easily knocked off. Another way to identify them is through the unique egg sandwich they create by placing their eggs between two leaves and gluing them together.

The leaf damage by the adults is minor compared to what the weevil larvae are doing in your soil. All through the growing season the larvae are aggressively feeding on plant roots and can girdle grown trees with little evident damage until it is too late to save the plant.

The citrus root weevil has been quarantined in six zones in San Diego County from La Jolla to Encinitas, as well as Scripps Ranch. Everyone needs to help limit its range and control its damage. We all need to keep our eyes open and to report it wherever it is found. If you live outside a quarantine

zone and think you have found one, put it in a small jar with rubbing alcohol and take it to your agricultural extension service office.

Those already affected need to take special care not to spread the insect. Home gardeners and landscape maintenance workers can easily carry the pest great distances. If you are in a quarantine zone bag or enclose all landscape waste and make certain your yard waste goes to qualified dump sites, such as the Miramar Landfill.

A good website for more information: <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/pdf/8131.pdf> or call the Master Gardener Hotline at 858-694-2859. —Lucy Warren



Adult citrus root weevil, *Diaprepes*.

PHOTO: KATHI WELLS

Common Place

The Vera House Community Garden in Normal Heights brings people together

Located in San Diego's Normal Heights neighborhood is a small garden oasis named the Vera House Community Garden. It is an organic garden with 12 individual plots and a communal herb plot. It is sponsored by the Normal Heights Community Development Corporation (NHCDC), and plots are open to residents in the larger Normal Heights community.

The Vera House Community Garden was created from the separate visions of two women, both long-term residents of Normal Heights. Fran Wilcox and Lois Miller (both active in the NHCDC) were keen to start a new community garden, and found a location in an empty, weed-filled lot at the corner of North Mountain View and 34th. In 1992 they advertised for gardeners. A neighbor helped clear the lot, a fence went up, plots were laid out and the garden was a reality.

The garden is dedicated to the memory of Vera House, who had lived across the street from the lot and had long envisioned a garden there. It was Vera House's vision that inspired her neighbor, Lois Miller, to join Fran Wilcox in establishing the garden. Three of Vera House's daughters have gardened there, including one who is presently a member. (On occasion she has the pleasure of gardening with her granddaughters there.) Lois Miller continues to support the project by serving as the liaison between the gardeners and the NHCDC, ensuring that the general needs of the garden are addressed.

Priority for use of the garden is given to residents within the immediate neighborhood, then to residents in the larger Normal Heights community. If plots are still available, residents of other nearby communities can join. Each gardener is assigned a plot that is about 10 feet by 20 feet, and pays \$25 dues every six months.

All participating gardeners agree to adhere to basic rules for their plots upon joining the garden. The garden is fully organic—use of pesticides, herbicides, fungicides or insecticides are prohibited. Most of the gardeners are very particular about their plants. All gardeners tend their own plots on their own schedule; however, group weeding of common areas takes place once a month. Gardening methods vary and each plot is as unique as its gardener; there are mounds, raised beds, rows, circular paths, rock borders and even homemade trellises.

Participation is a varied as the general population. One gardening family recently had a baby, a community gardener in utero. The gardeners are culturally diverse, with all types of individuals and careers represented; as are the gardening varieties harvested. It is a true community effort.

One of the people most representative of the garden is Ruth Parker, a resident of the Normal Heights area for 73 years. When asked why she gardened at Vera House, Ruth replied, "It is a great place to go and forget your day's troubles." She paused for a moment and then laughed. "It's pretty easy to forget your troubles when the weeds are staring at you."

For more information on the Vera House Community Garden, please visit www.normalheights.org/vhcg.

—Phyllis House-Cepeda and Katherine Rotherham



What's Growing

Ever wonder what's growing at your local community garden? The answer is almost anything and everything. Nothing beats fresh produce from the garden. Below is a sampling of what can be seen thriving in the Vera House garden year to year.

Tomatoes: The Vera House gardeners are fond of their tomatoes, and it shows, with a number of different varieties growing at any given time. Favorites include Beefsteak, Early Girl, Heirloom Purple Cherokee, Yellow Boy, Plum, Roma, Brandywine, Mortgage Lifter and cherry tomatoes.

Salad plants: Don't forget the "greens" with lettuces from romaine to butter in red, copper and green, with cooling cucumbers.

Seasonings: Some plants add gusto to your plate such as peppers, both hot and sweet, garlic and onions.

Other vegetables: A wide selection of other produce is grown, with numerous varieties of each, from beans to peas, cabbage to broccoli. Corn, squash and potatoes are other favorites, along with yummy artichokes.

Sweetness: Strawberries and raspberries add a sweet touch.

Herbs: If growing the food, why not the flavor as well? Vera House gardeners are fond of their herbs, growing oregano, thyme, lavender, cilantro and a number of basil varieties (including lemon and purple).

Flowers: While some choose to grow fill their plots with things to eat, others create their own cutting garden, growing many varieties of roses, tulips, daffodils, ranunculas, hollyhocks, sweet peas, poppies and peonies.

Drip Irrigation

Saving water, drop by drop

San Diego is in a deep drought and it is time to start saving water! Nine out of our last ten annual rainfall totals have been below average. At Lindbergh Field, where we average about ten and a half inches of rain a year, our rainfall for the past three years seems to be close to setting a combined record low for three consecutive years. In 2006, 6.04 inches fell; in 2007, 3.59 inches fell; and as of May 11, 2008, 7.02 inches has fallen and our rainy season is nearly done. That is a total of 16.5 for three years, which is about 50 percent of our average.

The city is asking us to voluntarily reduce our water consumption by 20 percent. Choosing drought tolerant plants, reducing lawn areas and using drip irrigation are all wise ways to meet this request.

Drip irrigation systems are extremely adaptable and optimize water placement. A system may be simple or extremely sophisticated as there are thousands of products on the market, and new technology is being developed everyday. We're going to keep it simple here. (*Ed. note: You can find all items mentioned below at your local nursery, hardware or big box home improvement retailer.*)

A screened connector allows you to hook up a drip line to a hose or hose bib. From there you'll run one-half inch poly tubing; this is the main artery of a drip system. Frame the planting areas you'd like to water via drip by placing the tubing on the surface, two or three feet in from the border. Use T connectors if you need to run some parallel lines. Run water through the line to flush it and cap off the ends.

Drip emitters come in either flag or button shapes; both work well. There are fixed gallon per hour (gph) volumes, generally ranging from .5 gph to 4 gph. For most plants use the lower volume emitters, and then use larger volume emitters for trees and any water loving plants. For most plants, especially those that are water sensitive, be sure the emitter is placed away from the trunk.

In addition to the regular drip emitters, there are also higher volume adjustable flow Shrubblers that you can open and close from 0 gph to 8+ gph. These are great for potted plants, as well for trees.

Use one-fourth inch tubing to reach plants in pots or plants that are more than a foot away from the main one-half inch line.

There are places where drip emitters don't really work well; for example, thick groundcover areas or annual flowerbeds. In these areas you will need to use micro sprayers attached with the one-fourth inch tubing. They come in quarter, half and full spray patterns. Be sure to get the adjustable sprayers.

When all is hooked up, cover drip tubing with a light layer of mulch. Turn on the system and correct any areas where you have leaks or where plants do not seem to be getting enough water.

Remember, no irrigation system is perfect. Be sure to occasionally hose down you garden so that all the leaves get cleaned and all the surface roots get a drink. —*John Noble*



Water Saver

Curious about how you can save some water this year? Try any one of these handy tips for some drought-friendly results.

- Water early in the morning.
- Mulch garden beds and potted plants to slow water evaporation.
- Water your plants at the root zone, for longer and less often, to encourage hardy plants with deeper roots.
- Group plants together based on how much watering they need.
- Use a full watering can rather than a hose as a water saving measure and bend from the knees to protect your back from the weight of the water and the can.
- Mow high and use sharp blade—three inches is recommended. High growth increases grass' tolerance to drought and insect/disease problems, and clean cut grass blades lose less water than tattered cut blades of grass.

—*John Strickland, Organic Growing Systems*

Sweet Success

Learn how to propagate African violets and more with a helpful honey paste

Propagating violet leaves is fun, and as simple as one-two-three; if you know the right way to do it. One traditional method has interested-propagators putting a violet leaf in a jar of water with morning sun. This method will produce babies with weak roots that must reform to develop a new, stronger root system when transferred to a violet soil. However, sometimes the leaf and babies rot during this transition period.

Another, more-successful common method of propagating violet leaves begins with soil-less mix and a violet leaf. Create a soil-less mixture with equal parts of perlite and vermiculite with a small amount of charcoal. Try using a two-inch plastic pot or a plastic bathroom cup with a hole in the bottom for a synthetic wick. Dampen the mixture with water and insert the wicking around the inside of the pot, leaving several inches to hang through the bottom. Place the wick in a margarine tub or the like with a hole cut into the lid for the wick.

Now take the violet leaf and cut the stem diagonally about one and one half inches down from the base of the leaf. This will produce a larger quantity of babies. Place the stem in the potting mix.

Fill the container with unfertilized water. Position the leaf in the pot at an angle rather than vertical. This allows the raw edge to be closer to the surface and will require a shorter distance for the baby leaves to pop out, resulting in a faster growth pattern. Cover the container with a plastic bag and hold it in place with a rubber band, making a miniature greenhouse. Cut two tiny slits in the bag to allow a small

amount of air to flow. Keep the leaf in a dark place for a week and then expose it to light. Within two months you'll have several tiny plantlets. They may be separated from the mother leaf by gently pulling them apart and repotted into violet soil when the leaves are the size of a nickel.

An interesting addition to the second process is the application of a small amount of 'honey paste,' or slurry, to the slanted cut on the violet leaf. The paste is created by mixing an equal mixture of any kind of honey and any brand of root hormone with a tiny bit of water. This recipe and procedure has been under experimentation for over a year in my violet room.

The purpose of using honey is to reduce the possibility of bacteria, fungus, insects and root-rot. Honey contains glucose oxidase, which is an outstanding antiseptic. Most bacteria and micro-organisms are unable to reproduce in honey, because honey is partly acidic and acids prevent the growth of some bacteria. Honey is one of the oldest healing medicines known to mankind and it hastens the healing time. Cutting a leaf is basically plant surgery, so it just makes good sense that African violets and other plants benefit from this natural approach to propagation. A word of caution: A little bit of 'honey paste' goes a long way, so "less is more;" too much slurry will kill the leaf.

This recipe has also been successfully used in propagating geraniums and mums. Experiment using the honey-method yourself with other plants!

—Barbara Conrad, Carlsbad African Violet Society



African violet (*Saintpaulia*)

PHOTO: RACHEL COBB

dahlia

PHOTO: BARBARA SWANSON

Dahlia 'Jessica'

Delightful Dahlia

Become an instant expert
with hands-on growing advice and official dahlia basics

By Sharon Tooley

Dahlias are not only some of the brightest flowers in modern gardens, they also have a long and fascinating historic association with man. Dahlias are native to Mesoamerica principally from the higher altitudes of Mexico. Pre-Columbian people of central Mexico, the Yucatan, and Guatemala cultivated them as a root crop. The genus includes about 30 species, all of which have edible tubers.

The dahlia tuber was long cultivated and hybridized as a nutritious food source that contains inulin (a fructose sugar) and antibiotic compounds concentrated in the tubers skins. A small Aztec herbal comprising wisdom of this rich heritage, was written in 1592 by two native students being taught by friars in Mexico. It includes dahlia tubers, *acocohxibuitl*, in a formulation of a cure for epilepsy. Currently, a sweet extraction of the roots called *dacopa* is said to combine the flavors of coffee, tea and chocolate. It has a variety of uses in beverages and flavorings.

Introduced into Europe in 1872, a box of tubers was sent from Mexico to the Netherlands, only one plant survived (*Dahlia juarezii*) and bloomed with brilliant red flowers with pointed petals. Abbe Cavanille from the botanical Gardens of Madrid named the dahlia in honor of Anders (Andreas) Dahl (March 17, 1751 - May 25, 1789), a Swedish botanist and student of Carolus linnaeus.

Dahlias were grown as a botanical curiosity until the mid-19th century when they took off as garden plants in major formal Victorian gardens where their diversity in size, color and shape was much appreciated in seasonal pattern gardens and borders. The principal decorative varieties grown in gardens today are thought to have been parented principally by the species *Dahlia pinnata* and *D. coccinea*. The species plants are rarely grown.

With over 50,000 thousand named cultivars dahlias are among the most beloved flowers in gardens around the world. Understand that not all 50,000 are still in existence, there are probably no more than 4,000-5,000 currently. The great variety results from dahlias being octoploids—they have eight sets of homologous chromosomes, whereas most plants have only two. For all their beautiful color and diversity of bloom, there is little to no fragrance. There are more than 60 dahlia societies in America and Canada under the umbrella of the American Dahlia Society (www.dahlia.org). One of them is the San Diego Dahlia Society, of which my husband and I are members.

Dahlias of all descriptions

Most people think of dahlias as either very large or quite small flowering plants, with “dinner plate” sized blooms or little border plants sold at their local nursery. Actually, dahlias have ten designated blossom sizes, indicating the diameter of the bloom, from under two inches to over ten inches. Bigger blooms demand proportionately more growing area. Stem/stalk lengths range

from one foot and up to five feet. I generally grow the medium sizes because the plants are easier to control and there are many more blooms per season. However, if you have the space and love big flowers, there is nothing like a giant dahlia.

Dahlias are blessed with a great selection of colors; the varietal mix is intensely spectacular. There are no green or blue dahlias, and although black is listed as a color I do not know of a named, American Dahlia Society (ADS) recognized, “Black Dahlia”. However, very intense deep maroon can appear to be almost black. Blends are two or more evenly merging harmonious colors; bicolor are two or more distinct and sharply contrasting colors and variegated are two or more colors in dots, splashes or stripes which contrast with the basic color.

There are 19 forms of dahlias recognized by the American Dahlia Society. Although the names can be confusing, they are all dahlias. The FD, or formal decorative dahlia, has regularly arranged petals, whereas the ID, or informal decorative dahlia, has twisted, curled and irregular petals—what we call a bad hair day! The cactus dahlias have petals that curved either all the way or part way. The lacinated varieties have split petal ends that appear fringed or frilled. Balls are round and uniform, and the Pompon is just a very small ball. Waterlily types resemble an actual waterlily—a view from the side shows a bloom that is flat with slightly cupped petals. The other types listed are grown less frequently, but you can usually see all the varieties at the San Diego County Fair and at our Annual Dahlia Show the first weekend in August in Room 101 Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego. To become an expert, familiarize yourself with the complete list:

Many people ask if dahlias are hard to grow. I maintain that they take about as much work as growing roses. If you just want something to toss into your yard and water weekly, dahlias are not the best choice. However, if you walk your gardens daily and enjoying watching each plant grow and bloom, then dahlias are well worth the time and energy.

Dahlias are like the chicken and the egg—which came first? If you wish to get the exact same bloom from year to year, you must harvest the tubers. If you are adventurous, harvest the seeds, which are not the same genetic “code” as the tuber. This is the method used to introduce new species into the dahlia genus.

Many dahlia growers ask if they should begin with digging tubers in the fall, or planting in the spring. As our climate in most of California is mild you should be able to leave your dahlia tubers in over winter and expect blooms to come up for several years as long as they are in well draining soil. However, there are at least four good reasons to dig tubers in the fall. They include: 1) if your area does experience winter freezes; 2) if you want to divide tubers and have lots of free plants; 3) if you want to share tubers; or 4) if you have winning varieties that you want to expand next

year. If any or all of these circumstances are true, you should dig up your dahlias in the fall.

A Year-Long Growing Plan

I begin to dig my tubers after the Thanksgiving in November. Before November I have usually cut my plants down leaving about a six-inch stalk. When the time comes to dig I carefully remove the entire tuber clump. I will either save the entire clump with dirt attached over the winter in a plastic tub—always keeping the nametag attached, or I will dig the clump and divide.

In preparation for dividing the tuber, take the clump out and wash with the hose; let dry several hours. After drying the tubers may be cut from the stalk after you have identified the “eyes.” The eyes look like small bumps on the end of the tuber that is attached to the stalk. Leave a bit of the stalk attached when cutting off the individual tubers. Dip the cut end of the tuber in sulfur dust to prevent fungus. Then put the tubers in a plastic bag with a few holes with the name of the flower on the outside. Cushion the tubers to prevent damage. I have tried shredded paper, coarse vermiculite and even sand; anything you can think of to cushion the tubers should work. Put the tubers in a brown grocery bag and store in the garage or outside in a ventilated tub that will not let rain in. Check your stored tubers a couple of times during the winter and throw away any that look rotten.

After successfully storing your tubers all winter bring them out in March to transfer to plastic trays. Fill the tray with two inches of potting mixture and place the tubers in a row about an inch apart with the eye or sprout facing up. The tuber end away from the eye should be buried in the potting mixture, but the eye end should be up. Keep the tubers in the flat until the eye starts growing into a sprout, usually two to four weeks. Gradually give the flat more exposure to the sun. Keep the potting mixture damp but not soaked.

During this time you should be preparing the soil in your garden. Till the soil and add compost or dehydrated cow manure. It's a good plan to water this fertilizer for a good week or two before planting to insure it is not too “hot.”

It is very important to place stem/stalk support stakes where you will plant before putting the tuber in the ground, usually about 18 to 24 inches apart. It is very distressing to drive a support stake through a tuber, believe me, however, your average dahlia grows about four to five feet high so that support will be important. When the sprout is about two or three inches high, take it out of the growing mixture being careful to protect the delicate roots on the bottom end of the tuber. Place the tuber horizontally in a two to three inch hole with the shoot pointing up toward ground level. The edge of the plant should be two inches in front of the stake.

I prefer to plant on days when it's cloudy, as well as to plant in the late afternoon. Shield small dahlia plants from too much sun when first planted. One of our growers used a wooden roof shingle to shade his new plants until they got used to the sun.

This is a good time to put out slug and snail bait—dahlias are snail candy. I usually start applying snail bait about a month before planting. You may be tempted to plant early, but dahlias need warm soil to grow and will sit for weeks if the weather is hovering between 50 and 60 degrees Fahrenheit. Tie your plant

label on the top of each stake so you can see it when your dahlia reaches maturity.

Once your dahlia plants have two to four sets of leaves you need to “top” it. Carefully pinch off the center growth. After topping the plant will send up lateral shoots that terminate in three flower buds. The two buds on each side should be pinched off forcing the growth into the remaining bud.

For those of us who show dahlias, we would like to have only four laterals with one bud on each end that blooms precisely at show time. This is how you get really good show flowers; however, if you are not interested in competition you can let your dahlias bloom without pinching back, but your blooms will be smaller. Dahlias should continue to bloom into September as long as you keep deadheading.

Dahlias are heavy feeders. Fertilizers list three numbers: the first number is for nitrogen, the second number is for phosphate and the third number is for potash. Nitrogen encourages foliage. Phosphate encourages roots and blooms. Potash encourages stems, roots and tubers. Growers who use a time released balanced fertilizer should need little additional fertilizer during most of the season. From mid summer on, whatever fertilizer you use should be low in nitrogen and higher in phosphate and potash. At the end of our growing season, usually October, sprinkle a teaspoon of potash around the base of your plants and water as usual. This will encourage good tuber growth.

Dahlias have a few more enemies beside snails and slugs. I frequently have ants that introduce aphids onto my tender buds. I generally use very few insecticides; however, for the ants I will spray a household ant killer lightly where needed and then just wash the aphids off. There is a dahlia virus that can be spread among your plants by sucking insects. If you have a dahlia plant that has misshapen or blotchy leaves, I suggest pulling it up and throwing it in the garbage—do not compost. The other problem almost all growers have with late season dahlia growth is powdery mildew here in coastal Southern California. I use sulfur powder around the base of my plants beginning in August since mildew comes from the soil. I also snap off the bottom leaves when they begin to deteriorate, as the plant grows taller. This will help keep the mildew at bay and help with air circulation. When your dahlias begin to look “ratty” just cut them back and let them rest until digging time in November.

Now we have gone full circle. Enjoy your blooms—share them with friends and neighbors, take a few into work or compete in your local dahlia show. The San Diego County Dahlia Society has their show in Balboa Park the first full weekend on August in the Casa Del Prado, Room 101. The Society meets in Casa del Prado in either Room 104 or 101 and at special times for breakfast at member homes or at a local restaurant. If you would like more information about growing dahlias or our society please give Dave or Sharon Tooley a call at 858-672-2593 or email us at djsj21643@aol.com. In addition to the ADS website mentioned earlier, another easily navigable site for information is the Colorado Dahlia Society (www.dahlias.net). Their site shows examples of blossoms, gives growing tips and lists many national growers. While dahlias may take extra attention, the results are stunning and worth your time and effort.

Cover Photo: ‘Pink Jupiter’
Photo: Barbara Swanson

Garden Conversations: Dahlias

Sharon Tooley, member and newsletter editor of the San Diego County Dahlia Society, discusses her love of dahlias with *California Garden*.

By Alyssa Holderbein

Local dahlia expert, Sharon Tooley, was first encouraged to grow dahlias by her brother. Many years later she is still enthralled with the flower and is an active member of the San Diego County Dahlia Society. Her husband, Dave Tooley, serves as the President while she writes the monthly newsletter.

California Garden: How did you first come to grow dahlias?

Sharon Tooley: My brother grew dahlias in Seattle, which is a big area to grow dahlias. He got on the Internet and found a lady in Pacific Beach named Dot Taylor who was a member of the San Diego County Dahlia Society. She encouraged us to join. My brother then said, "you joined, you should go to the meetings." So I did. Then of course after we went to a couple meetings they decided that I should be the secretary because the current secretary had been doing it for 17 years. That was about 10 years ago.

CG: What was it that attracted you to dahlias? What makes them special to you?

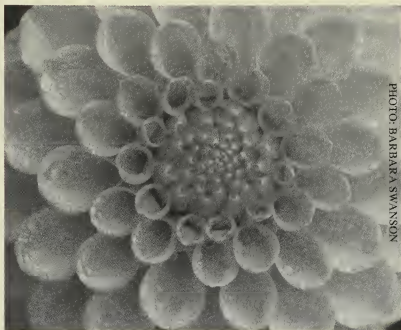
ST: I supposed the size, the color and the variety. There are 19 different types of dahlias. They range from 12 inches across to one inch across. They come in every color except green, blue and black.

CG: Was there one person who influenced your interest and love of dahlias?

ST: Probably my brother. There were a couple of growers who have now passed away, such as Charlie Splinter who were very knowledgeable and supportive. Ray Haas was another grower in the area. He lived in Clairemont and he grew everything in pots. He was the one who encouraged me to grow my dahlias in pots.

CG: Right now, how many dahlia plants do you have?

ST: I just counted them and came up with 63. I have a small yard in Rancho Penasquitos, which is an ideal place to grow dahlias and everything else I might add.



'Rose Toscano'

PHOTO: BARBARA SWANSON

CG: How many would you like to have?

ST: No more. I am really maxed out.

CG: What do people typically do wrong in caring for dahlias?

ST: Probably over-watering them when they're young, but it's hard to say that because they do need a lot of water. Another thing people do wrong is planting them in shady areas. Dahlias need full sun.

CG: Are there any special challenges to growing dahlias in the San Diego climate?

ST: They do need to be well watered. If you are inland they need to be watered about every other day. When they are new you need to be very careful with snails because they love to eat dahlias. We usually plant them in a small pot and wait for the eye to grow two to three inches and then we plant them in the ground sometime after April 1. The ground temperature needs to be at least 60 degrees Fahrenheit for the dahlia to grow properly.

CG: What is your favorite dahlia?

ST: I don't really have a favorite. I have one that grows well and strong here in San Diego is the 'Amy K.' It's a semi-cactus and a light blend of pink and white.

CG: What would you recommend for a beginner?

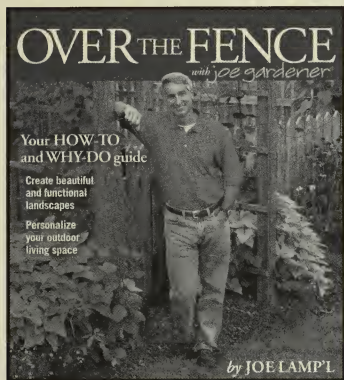
ST: Beginners can go to Armstrong Nursery or Walter Anderson Nursery and buy little packets of dahlia tubers. Or you could join the San Diego County Dahlia Society. The first weekend in August we have a huge dahlia show in Room 101 of the Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. The times are Saturday after 1:00 p.m. and Sunday after 10:00 a.m. This is a place to see the best locally grown dahlias and meet the growers.

CG: What books or other sources of information would you recommend for people to learn more about dahlias?

ST: The American Dahlia Society's website, www.dahlia.org is great. The Colorado Dahlia Society's website, www.dahlias.net, is also fantastic. It has information, pictures and a list of all the dahlia growers in the country.

Reviews

All of the books reviewed in *California Garden* are part of the San Diego Floral Association Library collection (located in Room 105, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA). Come, browse—and if you're a SDFA member—check them out!



DIY Network television host Jim Lamp'l offers practical advice for gardeners interested in the how and why of gardening.

Over the Fence with Joe Gardener

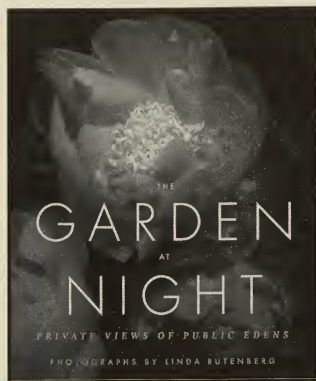
Joe Lamp'l
Cool Springs Press
\$25 (paperback), 225 pages

Sub-titled “Your How-To and Why-Do Guide” to gardening, this book is the work of an East Coast television gardening-show host, whose main focus is on simplifying landscape principles and projects. The text is very basic and arranged for quick reference, thanks to photos, charts and sidebars, plus bold-face paragraph headings. Some sections are presented in a question and answer format, interspersed with “quick facts” that zero in on significant information. Color photos illustrate gardening methods and garden atmospheres with the kind of light and placement features that bring a garden to life.

Getting down to specifics, there are chapters on soil, color, lawns, trees, edibles and containers. Weeds and pests are discussed, as well as ponds and outdoor lighting. Although the book is based on four seasons gardening, there is good information for any climate.

—Marge Howard-Jones

Feast your eyes
on over 160 color
photos of plants
at night.



The Garden at Night: Private Views of Public Edens

Linda Rutenberg
Chronicle Books
\$40 (hardcover), 176 pages

The idea of viewing a garden at night seems unintuitive. Sure, there are many reasons why you'd want to explore a garden after nightfall—the fragrance of a night-blooming plant, hunting nocturnal pests, etc.—however, the thought of heading out to a dark garden simply to view plants seems wrong.

It is the premise of night viewing that photographer Linda Rutenberg runs with, turning preconceived notions of what plants should look like on their heads. In the *The Garden at Night*, Rutenberg photographs plants in 21 gardens throughout North America to sometimes startling results, including such famous “local” haunts as the Huntington Botanical Garden and Descanso Gardens.

In most cases the images are ghostly and surreal, as familiar flowers and fauna take on a decidedly different look in the flash-illuminated dark. Flowers pop off the page, their false color sharp against near-black backgrounds, and almost everything looks a little jaundiced. It is a really interesting look at a world most of us don't experience.

All plants are identified by their common and botanical name, and each garden receives a small introduction. *The Garden at Night* is a coffee table book for the botanically adventurous. Many of the plants lose a little something in the dark, and most traditionalists will wonder, “what's the point,” though those with a love for photography and the unusual will surely find themselves amazed.

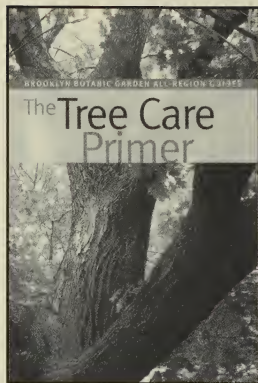
—Amy R. Wood

The Tree Care Primer

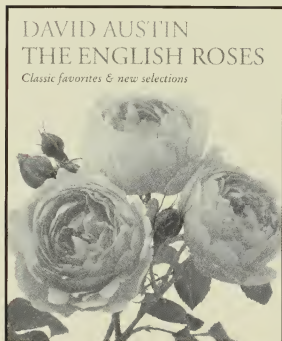
Christopher Roddick with Beth Hanson
Brooklyn Botanic Garden
All-Region Guide
\$10 (paperback), 119 pages

This, must-read volume of 119 pages is a valuable, handy reference guide of how to make life easier for your trees. To quote from a paragraph at the beginning of this book, "By understanding the growth and survival strategies of various tree species and their specific structural development or architecture (personality), you will be better prepared to care for all of your trees at each of their life stages." You'll certainly be better prepared to talk about your trees with your arborist.

As you become friends with this primer you will become better acquainted with the information contained in the following chapters: The Right Tree in the Right Place, Buying a Tree, Planting a Tree, Pruning Primer, Trees in their Formative Years, Early Mature and Mature Trees, Ancient Trees, Dying and Dead Trees, Choosing Trees, Tree Health Care and The Language of Tree Care. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden has produced a quality tree care primer for a bookshelf near you. —*Suzie Heap*



Get the skinny on tree care in this slim guide.



The English Roses

David Austin
Firefly Books Ltd.
\$45 (hardcover), 304 pages

Big, beautiful pictures are combined with lovely descriptions, making this a must-own coffee table book for any rose lover.

David Austin's *The English Roses* is a feast for the eyes, filled with over 250 photographs of gardens and roses, making it a lovely coffee table book. However, it's not just eye-candy, as it also contains a wealth of information about English roses. David Austin provides the reader with the history and background of these iconic flowers. There are chapters on the ancestors of English roses, the qualities of English roses and the art of fragrance.

Each variety of rose is beautifully photographed and accompanied by a complete description. The reader is then transported into lovely gardens filled with English roses planted in groups and with other flowers. The book continues with how to bring roses into the house and place them in a variety of vases and arrangements. Finally, David Austin forecasts the future of English roses and gives us detailed instructions on how to grow these beautiful bloomers. This book will encourage gardeners to try growing these lovely old roses and give them a place in their gardens. I found it to be a great place to gather ideas, as many of the roses will grow well in the San Diego climate. (I can confirm this as one of the featured roses is thriving in my backyard!)

—Victoria Phillips

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August 11: Growing & Harvesting Winter Crops

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Info: sdhortsoc.org or (760) 295-7089





Chinese Hybrid Cypress

A New Tree on the Horizon

By Mike Shade, Botany Shop

San Diego and 'cypress' are not usually synonymous, but that may change in the future. Arboreta and botanical gardens throughout the country are test growing a new hybrid southern climate tree which has had tremendous success in China. While cypress are usually associated with wetlands, one of the parents has shown amazing tolerance for drought when well established. This parent, the Montezuma cypress, is seldom grown as a landscape plant.

Taxodium x Nanjing 'Beauty' is a Chinese made hybrid-cross of our Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and the Texas and Mexican native Montezuma Cypress (*T. mucronatum*), which is the largest tree in the world by mass. Both of these trees, native to the Southeastern states, have been planted in China for over a century. They have become important and revered trees in that country.

The "Taxodium Project" led by Professor Yin Yun Long was essentially an effort to improve the species, develop the protocol for mass production, and assist in the nursery production and landscape use of the species in the region. In the early 1980s, in Nanjing, China, Dr. Chen Yong Hui grew a Montezuma cypress in a greenhouse to mature the cones.

He gathered the male cones, dried them, then collected and stored the pollen. When a superior bald cypress tree was ready the next year, he hand pollinated the female cones and bagged them. From this early 1980s cross, he obtained about 500 seedlings. The best performers were selected in the late 1980s and early 1990s. He did the science to prove that the seedlings were indeed hybrids and documented plant performance.

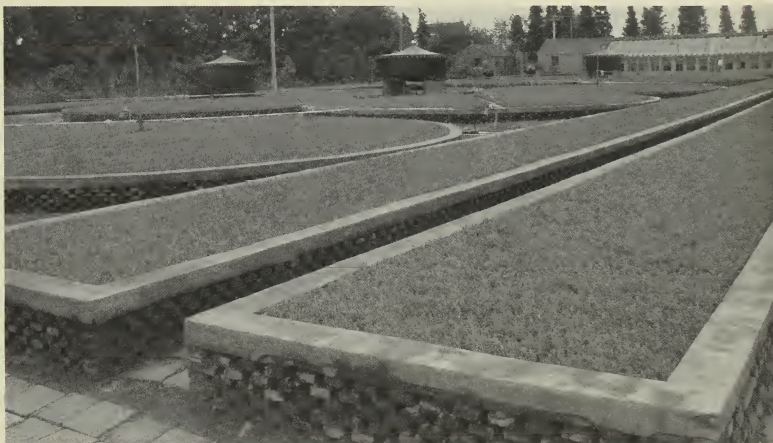
A clone F1302 was found to root easily and through

cutting propagation. It was moved into the thousands of propagules and now into hundreds of thousands. The superior attributes associated with this clone include a faster growth rate than bald cypress (159 percent), good columnar form, longer foliage retention in the fall and early winter, almost double the alkalinity tolerance, ease of rooting (80 percent) and absence of knees. In China, clone F1302 is now referred to as *Taxodium* 'Zhongshansa'. This hybrid cross is being planted by the millions in Southern China, an area with a climate zone equivalent to our zones 7 through 10.

Propagation began in this country after Dr. David Cheech took a consulting assignment in Nanjing in 2001. Impressed with the results with clone F1302, Dr. Cheech brought back 55 rooted cuttings to the Steven F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Texas for testing in the United States. Dr. Cheech believed that the new hybrid could be an excellent tree for fast screening, landscapes, soil conservation, timber, soil adaptability (acid, high pH and salty) and to control beach erosion.

With permission from the Chinese, Dr. Cheech renamed the clone Nanjing 'Beauty' for the American market. The Atlanta Botanical Garden now has a 20 foot specimen from one of the original legal rooted cuttings that Dr. Cheech brought from China in his suitcase in December of 2001.

The only commercial source for this plant right now is the Botany Shop in Joplin, MO. Efforts are ongoing to get several hundred plants out to botanical gardens and arboreta for evaluation of what is good and what is not so good about this new hybrid. For more information on this new tree go to www.botanyshop.com.





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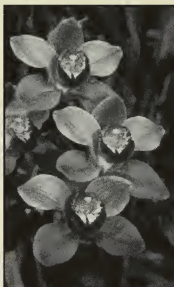
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Touring Descanso Gardens

A short trip north to the popular
Descanso Gardens is a summer-must

By Amy R. Wood

Tucked between the San Gabriel and the Verdugo Mountains in the San Rafael hills just 14 miles north of Los Angeles is the Descanso Gardens. With 150 acres featuring a wide variety of plants and gardens, the Descanso is one of the largest botanical gardens in the United States, and is considered among many to be a Southern Californian jewel. The Descanso (Spanish for “rest”) is eclectic and expansive. The gardens are perhaps best known for camellias, as Descanso Gardens boasts the largest collection of camellia species in North America. Planted on over 20 acres, the camellias and companion azaleas, bloom under a canopy of old oak trees. The unique lilac garden, where low-chill, southern California-specific lilacs were developed, is a fun-stop for transplants from colder regions. The largest iris garden in California is also at Descanso Gardens, with over 1,500 named varieties of iris present. Another eye-popping stop is the nine-acre California Garden of Native Plants. Designed by horticulturist Thomas Payne, the California Garden shows the power of nature, with native-plants scattered amongst the chaparral hillsides.

By all accounts, Descanso Gardens is universally-loved by visitors. Angelenos adore the space as a quick getaway from their busy, urban lives, while travelers from all corners of the globe appreciate the gardens’ educational and aesthetic treats. A site for the eyes and a workout for the feet, Descanso Gardens is a place every garden lover should visit at least once.

History

The link between Descanso Garden’s current botanical diversity and its past are strong, as the area was once a private, commercial flower farm called Rancho del Descanso. The owner of the ranch, newspaper magnate E. Manchester Boddy, planted thousands of camellias, azaleas, roses and lilacs in 1937 for both commercial sale and the enjoyment of guests. He also bought a watershed in the San Gabriel Mountains that continues to irrigate the garden today.

In 1953 the farm ownership was turned over to the County of Los Angeles and it was transformed into a public garden. Through fits and starts, and the dedication of a number of hard-working volunteers, Descanso Garden’s transformed over the years into the world-class garden it is today, operated by the non-profit Descanso Gardens Guild.

Visitors to the garden, when not soaking in the historic camellia and oak trees, can tour the 22-room Boddy house. Built in 1938, the Boddy house was Mr. Boddy’s family home and is the site of many events. (It is situated adjacent to an art gallery.)



The International Rosarium is a year-round draw.

Year-Round Attractions

There are a number of year-round attractions that you can enjoy no matter what season you visit. These sites include a one-acre traditional Japanese Garden and Tea House, a miniature railroad (\$2 to ride), an expansive fern garden, native oak trees, Descanso Lake and Bird Sanctuary. (Birders may want to bring their binoculars, as the area hosts many birds not usually seen in San Diego County. Birds can be easily seen from the garden’s Bird Observation Station).

What to See: July and August

If you’re equipped with sunscreen, a wide-brimmed hat and plenty of water, the sites can more than make up for summer heat. Plan your path to occasionally dip into the numerous shaded areas, or opt to let a guided tram tour shoulder some of the load and whisk you around the park for an hour.

In addition to strategically placed summer annual and perennial beds planted throughout the gardens, visitors will want to visit the five-acre International Rosarium. Organized with the historical development of the rose in mind, the International Rosarium features roses from 12 countries with over 3,000 roses bloom year-round. Though at its peak in early summer, the International Rosarium should still be stunning in July and August.



PHOTO: MARY ELLEN WALKER

This majestic oak is believed to be over 130 years old.

Visitors will want to visit the Edible Estates Demonstration Garden. Conceived by artist, architect and gardener Fritz Haeg, the garden's goal is to show people how they can replace their suburban lawns with an edible garden (Lawns consume 50 percent of water in Los Angeles County.) It is one of what will eventually be nine edible estate gardens in the United States, each representing a different climate and growing region.

The Descanso Edible Estates garden is unique in that it is the only one where the edible garden is planted side-by-side with a traditional lawn. About 100 local fourth-grade students were asked and accepted the challenge of monitoring the garden and lawns respective inputs and outputs. Visitors can review this data at the garden, seeing how the edible garden and lawn compare in the use of water, fertilizer, labor, fuel-usage, food-output, green waste and biodiversity. The project will end on November 30, 2008, so don't wait too long to take it in.

Must-See

In 1878, a horrible fire raged in the hills around Los Angeles, wiping out most of the rare, coastal oak forest situated in the area. Only six trees located within the current Descanso Gardens boundaries survived that fire, and it is believed that all other oaks on the grounds are descended from these six trees. A lovely example of the old oaks can be seen opposite the Center Circle. It is a must-see for any tree lover.

Maybe Later

For those who have already packed their summers with activities, but would like to visit Descanso Gardens at a later date, consider these times to visit. Winter is always a wonderful time to tour the gardens, as the temperatures drop to the 60 degrees Fahrenheit, and the camellias bloom. (Although the forest comes alive between fall and early spring, the best time to see camellias in bloom is January and February.) Spring is also a great time to drop by. Lilacs bloom in March and April, and the tulip display around Easter is a Descanso Gardens favorite.

Getting There

Descanso Gardens is situated about two hours north of San Diego, and is a bearable day trip. Heading north out of the county, take I-5, merging eventually onto CA-2 N to Glendale. From there, exit toward CA-2 Pasadena, take the Verdugo Blvd exit and turn right. Descanso Drive will be on the right. The Descanso Gardens address is 1418 Descanso Drive, La Cañada Flintridge, CA, 91011.

The garden is open 9 a.m.–5:00 p.m. every day except Christmas. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors, \$2 for children aged 5-12 and free for children 5 or younger. For more information, visit the garden's site at www.descansogardens.org.

Now is the time

Timely tips to
keep your plants
happy throughout
July and August

African Violets

Barbara Conrad, Carlsbad African Violet Society

- Maintain room temperature for violets above 60 degrees Fahrenheit and below 80 degrees F.
- Brush leaves with a camelhair brush to remove dust or even pet hairs.
- Mist violets periodically in hot weather with very warm water in a spray bottle. The water will cool before it hits the plants and provide extra moisture. Blot centers dry to avoid bright sunlight until droplets dry.
- Search for outer leaves having powdery mildew. Rub them lightly with fingers under the faucet with warm water. Pat dry. Try to place the plants where there is better air circulation.
- Watch for violets with leaves having long petioles, indicating that the plant is not getting enough light. Plants in these locations are less likely to bloom often.

Begonias

Doris Smith, Alfred D. Robinson Begonia Society

- Groom by removing dead leaves, old flowers and other debris.
- Pot rooted cuttings in a light porous soil.
- Continue to check begonias for pests and disease.
- Fertilize for continued blooming in all plants.
- Feed tuberous plants.

Bonsai

Kora Dalager, San Diego Bonsai Club

- Turn trees for even sun exposure.
- Water early in the day, and late afternoon on hot dry days—generally speaking, do not rely on automatic watering systems alone. Inspect your bonsai and adjust watering to weather conditions.
- Continue pinching back junipers and deciduous trees.
- Continue fertilizing—give blooming bonsai a dose of zero nitrogen fertilizer in August, to promote bloom the following year.
- In general, use lower nitrogen type fertilizers as the year progresses.
- Continue monitoring your trees for insects especially spider mites, which love junipers and pines.
- If mites are found treat aggressively—hosing the foliage daily may not be enough.

- July is the latest month for defoliating deciduous trees. Place defoliated trees in shade after defoliating and water less often

Bromeliad

Mary Siemers, Bromeliad Study Group of Balboa Park

- Protect plants from getting sunburn by keeping them under shade cloth or any other material that will provide plenty of light for their best color and conformation.
- Water by spraying entire plant, as bromeliads absorb moisture and nutrients through their leaves. Be careful not to over-water the medium, to prevent unhealthy soggy roots.
- Fertilize monthly during warm weather, by spraying with water-soluble fertilizer, especially one high in acid, using one-half the recommended amount on the label. (Bromeliads do not care for fish emulsion.)
- Fertilize roots with a slow time-release fertilizer (preferably granular type) every three months. Example: For a six-inch container, spread one teaspoon of fertilizer over the medium around the plant.
- Make new plants by cutting off sets (pups) when they are one-third to one-half the size of the mother plant. Warm weather will encourage root growth. Always provide good drainage.

Cacti and Succulents

Joyce Buckner, The Plant Man Nursery

- Water plants generously during the warm summer growing season. Succulents with thin non-succulent leaves such as *Euphorbia milii* (Crown of Thorns) and most cacti will especially benefit from thorough summer watering. Allow soil to become almost dry between waterings. Early morning watering is generally the best because this allows plants to dry during the heat of the day. Young plants and/or newly installed plants require more frequent watering to get established.
- Check potted plants more often—plants that remain completely dry for a long time may lose their root mass. An occasional drenching will keep salts from accumulating in the potting soil.
- Be careful: Pots that are glazed black or very dark colors can get extremely hot in the sun. Potted succulents generally do better in a part shade/part sun locations.
- Newly purchased, transplanted or moved plants are vulnerable to sunburn. Damage first appears as a bleaching on the exposed side and can develop into a permanent scar. Water on leaves can sometimes magnify sun exposure and cause burn. Use screen or cheesecloth to protect plants from intense sun or acclimate to new locations.
- A light application of diluted fertilizer may be given to your summer/warm weather growers. Use a balanced fertilizer—

NKP numbers should all be below 30 and relatively similar (15-15-20 for instance). Apply at one-quarter the recommended strength every third or fourth watering.

- Remove dead leaves and debris and pull those weeds before they go to seed!
- Pests are usually not a big problem during this time of year. A powerful blast of plain old-fashioned hose water will effectively evict most aphids, mealy bugs, worms or other critters. Borax chalk will stop the ants. Watch out for snails—they like wet leafy places.
- Check out those beautiful night-blooming cactus. They love a hot summer night and smell absolutely wonderful!



PHOTO: BAREKARA SWANSON

Dahlias

Dave Tooley, San Diego County Dahlia Society

- Keep old blossoms cut back to first of leaves from the main stalk to prolong blooming.
- Disbud to encourage better blooms.
- Tie canes to prevent plants breaking—use a loop for each cane.
- Continue a regular watering program.
- Spray for insects and mildew; control slugs and snails.
- Feed with a 5-10-10 fertilizer.
- Cut blossoms in late afternoon or early morning and place immediately in water.

Epiphyllums

Phil Peck, San Diego Epiphyllum Society

- Repot plants that are showing signs that the potting mix has broken down. Better yet, simply take cuttings and start new plants. Don't forget to use proper name tags.
- Keep plants out of full summer sun. They need filtered sunlight and good air movement.
- Remove spent blooms and unwanted "apples" to conserve the plant's vitality.
- Plant new cuttings during the warm weather, to establish new growth during the growing season.
- Water hybrids during the hot summer months. Spray occasionally or mist. Do not allow soil to dry out completely.
- Continue pest and disease preventions. We like "Summer" horticultural oils for scale. Bait for slugs and snails.
- Fertilize regularly for new growth.

Ferns

Bob Halley, San Diego Fern Society

- Keep removing old fronds.
- Water frequently as most ferns are in full growth now. Try to keep humidity up.
- Fertilize with half-strength, high-nitrogen liquid or slow release pellets.
- Spray for aphids, thrips and scale. Keep looking for snails and slugs. Spread bait as needed.
- Watch for giant white flies. Treat by wiping off egg spirals.
- Collect and sow spores. New ones should be coming available regularly.
- Protect your plants from the hot sun; very few like full sun these days.

Fruit Trees and Vines

**Vincent Lazaneo, Horticulture Advisor,
UC Cooperative Extension**

- Monitor soil moisture within the root zone and irrigate when soil begins to dry.
- Periodically apply enough water to leach salts below plant roots (three to four feet deep).
- Support limbs that have a heavy fruit load to prevent breakage.
- Begin harvesting fruit as soon as it is ripe.
- Remove fruit that is damaged or on the ground to discourage green fruit beetles and other insect scavengers.
- Prune out shoots killed by fire blight on pear, apple, quince and loquat. Make cuts at least 12 inches below (if possible) infected tissue and disinfect pruning shears between cuts.
- Keep ants off trees and periodically wash foliage with a forceful spray of water to promote biological control of spider mites, aphids, whiteflies, scale and other insects.
- Inspect new leaves for signs of zinc and iron deficiency (yellowing between veins). Apply micronutrient spray if needed.
- Prune out blackberry and raspberry canes that have borne fruit.
- Watch for Diaprepes root weevil damage on citrus and other woody plants. Report infestations to the Exotic Pest Hotline (800-491-1899). To see photos of the pest and damage visit: www.cdfa.ca.gov and enter "Diaprepes" in the search box.

Herbs

John Noble, Coastal Sage Gardening

- Water wisely. Deep water basil, mint, Yerba mansa, Gota kola, horsetail, comfrey and other water-loving plants. Don't overwater your drought-tolerant herbs such as rosemary, lavender, sage, thyme and aloe.
- Prune back plants that are taking over paths or smothering other plants.
- Fertilize and amend the soil.
- Prepare delicious meals with fresh basil.

- Dry bundles of oregano, thyme, sage, lemongrass, lemon balm, raspberry leaf, feverfew, chamomile and stevia.
- Make herbal sun tea. Serve iced with a fresh mint leaf on a sunny hot afternoon.

Irises

Leon Vogel, San Diego/Imperial Counties Iris Society

- Dig over-crowded clumps. Divide and share rhizomes with friends.
- Dig whole beds if necessary to thin the clumps.
- Be sure to add amenities to soil such as fertilizer, peat moss, compost, gypsum and new topsoil.
- Rototill the soil well and allow to stand for a week if possible before planting.
- Feed (fertilize) at least three times yearly. Can foliar-feed in between. Irises are heavy feeders.
- Remember that iris can remain out of ground three weeks or more before replanting.
- Plant rhizomes. The top quarter should be showing above the soil line—they breathe.
- Trim the roots back to one-half inch when replanting—they send out all new roots within a few weeks.
- Do not neglect to water enough to keep them growing. New beds require more water.

Native Plants

John Noble, Coastal Sage Gardening

- Let your plants go into summer dormancy.
- Water sparingly. Although many established natives need little or no summer watering, most are happy being watered once or twice a month.
- Check your irrigation system. Be sure to prune around spray heads or add a riser so that you have full-coverage. Drip systems should not drop water directly at the base of the plants.
- To spray the landscape by hose. It mimics a summer storm and washes the leaves clean.
- Prune shrub overgrowth from pathways.
- Reduce fire risk by weed whacking the annual flowers and grasses. Lace out dead wood on perennial shrubs and trees such as toyon, lemonade berry, sumac and oak.
- Lightly mulch bare soil areas.

Orchids

Christopher Croom, San Diego County Orchid Society

July

- Be more vigilant about diagnosing sunburn on your orchids.
- Continue watering and fertilizing steadily as your plants should all be in active growth.
- Move warmer indoor growers outside so they can benefit from the moving air and day/night temperature changes.
- Consider watering in the early evenings if the nighttime temperatures are above 65 degrees Fahrenheit.

- Add more moss (sparingly) to mounted plants that are showing wrinkly, yellow leaves or other signs of dehydration.

August

- Water all mounted plants frequently.
- Protect the more sensitive, cloud forest orchids from heat and dryness (namely, pleurothallids and miltonias) by watering more often and providing more shade.
- Continue consistently watering and fertilizing all members of your collection (including watering in the early evenings.)
- Monitor the indoor orchids that you moved out for the summer to make sure they're not getting sunburned.
- Protect your orchids from hailstorms—if we get any—and insects with sucking mouth parts (scale, aphids, cottony mealybugs, spider mites, etc.) using insecticidal soap or pesticide if necessary.

Pelargoniums

Jim Zemcik, San Diego Geranium Society

- Let your plants perform. Avoid unnecessary pruning or cutting.
- Continue removing dead, older and/or damaged leaves to prevent the formation of molds or fungus. Be especially watchful of geranium rust in high humidity areas and treat appropriately.
- Continue a steady water cycle. Do not let plants totally dry out.

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Water in early morning or early evening for best results. Some plants such as Martha Washington (Regal) geraniums will quit blooming if allowed to become too dry and older varieties will not re-bloom. Avoid getting the foliage wet.

- Feed with a good commercial fertilizer. Use at one-third to one-half of the label recommended strength. Apply on two week intervals.
- Deadhead as soon as blooms pass their peak. This will encourage new blooms and keep plants looking fresh all season.
- Continue a pest prevention program. This is when budworm can become a real problem. Use a good systemic insecticide for best results. Those using a bio product such as *B. thuringiensis* should spray at least every seven days. If not controlled budworm will eventually bore into the plant stems and this can lead to various rots, fungi and viral destruction to your plants. Follow manufacturers' recommendations and keep preventative control on a steady, continuous schedule.
- Protect plants from severe sun damage. Keep pots out of full sun. Protecting larger pots by surrounding them with pots of shorter growing annuals may help keep them from damage. It may be beneficial when using plastic pots to place a potted plant into a second, empty container of equal or larger size. This will help insulate the primary pot from the sun's rays and prevent root damage.
- Rotate plants to keep them well-shaped and covered with blooms.

Plumerias

Frank Zotter, Southern California Plumeria Society

- Plant cuttings that have calloused over for at least three weeks. Use quick draining soil such as cactus mix. Water well once, then do not water or feed until leaves are about one inch.
- Graft hard-to-root or rare plumeria; sap has to be flowing well in both the scion and rootstock.
- Fertilize growing plants once a month with low nitrogen and high phosphorous, using one tablespoon per gallon pot.
- Water as plants in pots get dry in warm weather. When no moisture is present on the top two inches, water until it runs out the bottom. Use no underdish.
- Place nylon netting or stocking over seed pods to capture seeds when pods open.

Roses

Doug Kalal, San Diego Rose Society

- Soak your rose. Water around your rose three feet in diameter and three inches deep, three times a week. Use your pointer finger as a guide. Put it into the soil 18 inches out from your rose bush. Is your entire finger moist after you finish your watering? If not, water some more. If you live east of I-15, water five times a week.
- Deadhead your early summer blooms. Prune the rose at an outward facing five-leaf leaflet. Be sure to cut the stem far

enough down the bush to support the next rose. At the same time remove any small growth in the center of the bush. Removing this growth improves wind and bird flow through the bush that leads to healthier roses.

- Feed your rose. In hot weather, roses consume food faster. July is a great time for a one shot, slow release fertilizer. This way you can feed your rose once and then go on vacation. The best fertilizers are Ada Perry Rose Mix (only from Walter Andersen's Nursery) or Best Packs (from Miramar Wholesale Nursery or Walter Andersen's). Follow the directions on the package.
- Kill bad insects with a water wand. An upward blast of water with a water wand will help kill the spider mites that love to flourish in the summer time.
- Add another inch of mulch. Small wood chips are great. Cocoa mulch is nice but poisonous to dogs, so beware.

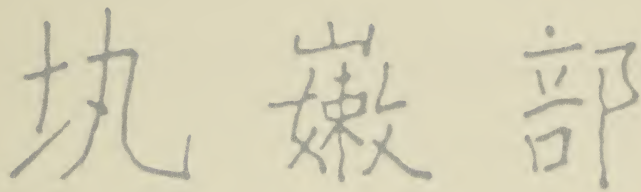


PHOTO: AMY R. WOOD

Vegetables

Vincent Lazaneo, Horticulture Advisor,
UC Cooperative Extension

- Make a last planting of warm-season vegetables (tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, corn, beans and summer squash) in July for fall harvest.
- Plant seed of cole crops (cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower) in August for winter harvest.
- Cover seed with floating row cover to protect young plants from insects.
- Withhold water from rhubarb and artichoke and allow plants to go dormant until fall.
- Control corn earworm, apply Carbaryl (Sevin) or BT when silk first emerges, then every three days until silk turns brown.



Hòn Non Bộ

Miniature Vietnamese Landscape, Art and Spirit

By Phan van Lit

For thousands of years, Vietnamese people have worshiped stones, trees and rivers. They also prayed to spirits of rivers, trees and mountains. They believed there were sacred spirits in mountain caves who built mansions in a paradise to isolate their sacred world from the human world. People made an effort to enter this sacred world so they never die.

It was not possible for all people to live near a cave in the mountains, so they created in their own homes a Hòn Non Bộ containing water and stones set together to look like islands in the ocean with mountain ranges and plants. They also added figures of birds, animals, structures and people.

Hòn means “island” in Vietnamese; Non means “mountain” and Bộ means a combination of water, mountain range and forest. (Bộ can also mean, “copying the way the scenery—mountain, forest, ocean, animals, birds, structures and people—look in miniature.”)

In the philosophy of Japanese bonsai, Heaven is at the top of the tree, Man is represented by some point in the middle branches and Earth is at the bottom branch. The three points form a scalene triangle, one whose sides are all of different lengths.

In Hòn Non Bộ, the points are interpreted very differently. The top is Natural (heaven equaling the sky, clouds, stars, moon) rather than a mythical heaven. The lower section is Earth (represented by soil, water and mountains) and Man is between the Natural/heaven and Earth. In fact, the person building Hòn Non Bộ, or the people walking around looking at Hòn Non Bộ, represent Man.

The Chinese letter for “heaven” also means “Natural.” Thus it is accepted that man carries on his head the Natural (heaven) and has his foot touching the ground or Earth and that the Natural, the Earth and Man are the same One.

History of Hòn Non Bộ

It is unclear when the art of Hòn Non Bộ originally started. In Vietnamese history, Non Bộ were built only with bamboo and set on a boat. According to historical accounts, the first recorded Non Bộ was mentioned during the reign

of Vietnamese emperor Le Dai Hanh, Then Phuc the Fifth, in the year 985 A.D. He ordered mountain scenery made of bamboos, called Nam Son (mountain in the south) to be set up on the royal boat as part of the inauguration of the Kingdom’s palace, which was constructed the year before. Hòn Non Bộ, in contrast, are built with rocks and small plants and are set in containers with water.

One Hòn Non Bộ remains from the tenth century, in Ninh Binh province near the prayer house of Emperor Le Dai Hanh. It may have been created at the same time and in conjunction with a two story building and seven palaces with gardens, although this has not been confirmed.

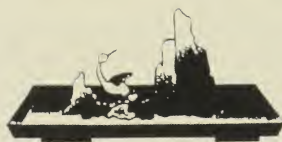
In the reign of the Vietnamese Ly Thai Tong (1028-1054) another Non Bộ was mentioned. As part of the Emperor’s birthday celebration, a miniature mountainous scene named Van Tue (longevity) was constructed at Long Tri (Dragon Pond). The scene was composed of five mountains decorated with dancing fairies and singing birds in festive celebration.

During the same time, a novel—a love story—the author wrote: “...return the subject Quy Nhi to the garden, she sees flowers around the mountain, under the mountain there is a small palace, around the palace are all kinds of flowers, on the right side of the palace is a natural Hòn Non Bộ; there is a glint to it from precious stone. Under the Hòn Non Bộ, a stream that runs to a pond, the water is very clear, just like a mirror. Beside the Hòn Non Bộ there is a curved small sidewalk that has oleander on both sides.”

Elements for Creating a Hòn Non Bộ

Begin with a water basin. The form is your discretion—rectangular, square or round, depending on individual taste. The basin can be small and shallow, so it is easily moved. For a more permanent immovable Hòn Non Bộ it may be large and deep, filling a large part of a backyard. The water basin could also be used as an aquarium to enhance tranquility and life-like scenery.

The hardscape within the Hòn Non Bộ will include pebbles and stones and rocks to create images of mountains



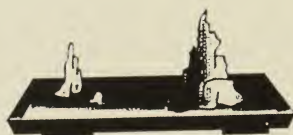
BIRD IN PROPORTION
WITH MAN



TREE BIGGER THAN
MOUNTAIN



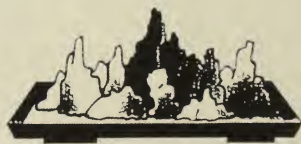
IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS



NOT ENOUGH SUBSTANCE



MOUNTAINS ARE THE
SAME HEIGHT



TOO MUCH CLUTTER

and islands. Starting with an abundance of material enables you to make choices as you design the piece.

Landscaping materials include plants or small trees, in proportion to the overall design of the Hòn Non Bô. The size of the plants is critical for a realistic effect. For example, smaller trees make mountains look larger. Look for plants with small leaves and form.

Many Hòn Non Bô include additional decorations such as houses, pagodas, birds and bridges. Conventionally, four types of humans are depicted, fishermen, woodcutters, farmers and scholars. These people are mentioned throughout Vietnamese literature and generally are associated with tranquility and peacefulness. Remember that each element must be kept in scale with the overall design.

A small pump is used to create a waterfall, a stream, or flowing water. This adds the elements of movement and sound.

Although it is not critical and depends on the design, some modern Hòn Non Bô include a smoke machine to create morning mist.

Although the successful finished creation will look very natural, you will draw on all basic design principles to create this look: size, color, scale and proportion. Through careful thought, planning and control of the concept and creation, you can create a piece of art that will last for generations. Begin by considering your materials and drawing an outline of the Hòn Non Bô you wish to create.

As you approach the design stage, think about whether you are going to create a natural or imaginary scene. A natural Hòn Non Bô would be a miniature version of naturally occurring scenery, a real-life nature scene. Examples include miniature versions of Half Dome of Yosemite, Grand Canyon or Ha-Long Bay in Vietnam.

Imaginary scenes could be designed to a theme, such as Heaven or Mother's Love, but whether whimsical or serious, they are based on the imagination of the creator.

Things to Consider

Mountains play an important part. They may be the principal features of a Hòn Non Bô, they may serve in a supplemental role or they may be used as contrast. The



SAME SIZE

arrangement of the mountains is more effective when it is in the form of an irregular, or scalene, triangle. Placement of the mountains requires trial and error, but improves with experience. Feel free to move your mountain rocks around trying different angles until you are satisfied.

Choose stones of a style and color that will minimize any appearance of being man-made. Pay attention to detail. If the stones have a grain, for instance, make the grain match so that the stones look like a natural upheaval rather than a pile of rocks. A subtle point about color; use a lighter shade of rock in the background when attempting to give the illusion of a distant mountain.

Hard rocks may be difficult to carve and manipulate, but when these have achieved an excellent shape, they will not disintegrate for a long time.

Soft rocks are easily carved or shaped into any kind of pattern; they are water absorbent and can grow moss.

Stones do not always come in the exact form and shape of a mountain, so it may be necessary to modify the stones, either by cutting them or by putting several together. Stones are stabilized, that is, made to sit firmly where placed, by flattening or cutting the base. They can be cut with chisels, hacksaws or power saws with abrasive wheels.

They may also be stabilized, or smaller pieces may be assembled into larger ones, by using mortar mixed with a designer color cement to match the stone. Integrating the vertical lines of the rocks is one method of depicting high and steep mountain peaks. Care should be taken to ensure the artificial base or joint lines are the same color as the rocks and the bases look like natural rock foundations. Any extra mortar surrounding the rocks should be washed away by using a small sprayer filled with water.

In constructing a large Hòn Non Bô, it is very important to build a firm foundation prior to placing the stones. One may find it helpful to use ropes, strings or supporting poles to retain the shape of the design while the mortar is curing.

To Admire Hòn Non Bô

Art may be viewed and appreciated as the physical result of creativity such as in flower arranging, painting, sculpting and even conversation. It may also be viewed on a more spiritual level; Eckhardt Tolle refers to this as "consciousness." One sees not only the visual and material creation, but also the natural tranquility and beauty as part of a greater presence. The second level of perception may be experienced by all, but is more common in eastern cultures.

The Vietnamese people like to live with tranquil internal feelings. Whenever they look at a Hòn Non Bô, they feel rejuvenated. Besides admiring the Hòn Non Bô for itself, Vietnamese people look at it to improve themselves, to raise their spirits and to be in harmony with the universe and the natural. We hope you will appreciate and share in this perception.

To Experience and Learn About Hòn Non Bô

A beautiful example of Hòn Non Bô created by the author is on permanent display in the Botanical Building in Balboa Park. It was created by Phan van Lit, who worked for the City of San Diego in the Parks and Recreation Department in Balboa Park for many years, in charge of important gardens such as the Desert Garden and the Botanical Building. He has authored a book on the subject *Mountains in the Sea: The Vietnamese Art of Hòn Non Bô*. He has received much acclaim for his artistry and knowledge of this exceptional art form.

Come to the Hòn Non Bô Show in Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101 on Saturday, August 23 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and on Sunday, August 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Hòn Non Bô Association meets in Casa del Prado the first Sunday February, April, June, August, October and December at 10:30 am. For more information call 658-689-0957.

Making Containers for Hòn Non Bô

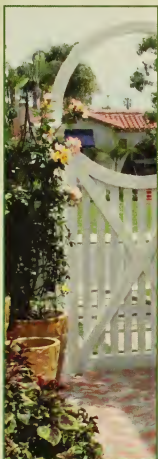
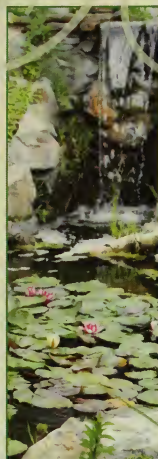
Suitable containers may not be available in the size and shape you would like, or they may be prohibitively expensive. Here's how you can make your own:

1. Begin by measuring the length and width of the mountains and islands, taking into account the size of the "ocean" that will be surrounding them to determine the dimensions of your container. Decide on the shape you want to create and make an outer frame, or mold, from wood or metal (rectangular, square, round—all are correct.
2. Make another frame (inner mold) about one-half inch smaller all the way around to fit inside the large outside frame. Then put stucco reinforcing wire between the inner and outer molds.
3. Mix cement or quick-drying mortar with vinyl additives and add desired color. Then pour the cement/mortar between the inner and outer molds, covering the metal stucco reinforcing wire.
4. Let the container dry one week. When it is dry, take the container out of the mold and turn it over to make feet on the bottom of the container.
5. Finish by smoothing the surfaces, using carborundum stones or other concrete-smoothing tools.



Thank You Garden Tour Participants

PHOTOS: AMY R. WOOD



Point Loma Gardens

Mission Hills Gardens

Thuja x 'Green Giant' New USDA Release

- Pennsylvania Gold Medal Plant Award 1998
- Tough, Fragrant, Tall, Skinny Evergreen
- Deer, Bagworm, & Disease Resistant
- Fast Growing, 3' to 5'/Year
- Zones 5-9



NOW INTRODUCING DISEASE RESISTANT AMERICAN ELM

Jefferson American Elm and *Taxodium x Nanjing 'Beauty'*

Taxodium x Nanjing 'Beauty' is being planted by the millions in China pictured is in the Atlanta Botanical Garden in Atlanta, Georgia.



Knockout Roses www.knockoutroses.com

and **Endless Summer** **Hydrangeas**

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JOPLIN, MO

SDFA Calendar

A listing of the best gardening-related activities in the county for July and August 2008

July Events

JULY 1

SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR

The San Diego County Fair will be winding down on its three-week event. Find the answer to your garden questions at the fair. See educational and exciting display gardens, and a flower show extraordinaire. Learn about and join San Diego Floral Association or one of San Diego's many garden clubs or plant societies showing at the fair.

When: 10 a.m.–10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, 10 a.m.–11 p.m.

Fridays and Saturdays, Tuesday, July 1–Sunday, July 6

Where: Del Mar Fair Grounds, Del Mar, CA

More information: www.sdfair.com

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING

The SDCOS is holding two meetings: a general meeting and a novice class for those interested in learning more about orchids. Everyone is welcome!

When: Novice Class at 6:30 p.m., General Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Room 104 (Novice Class), Room 101 (General Meeting),

Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA

More information: www.sdorchids.com

JULY 5

SOUTHWESTERN HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE

In this spectacular display, members from the Southeastern Hemerocallis Society showcase their best daylilies from their gardens, which will be judged. Activities include a plant sale and tours of the daylilies at Quail Gardens. Free admission to the Gardens. (Admission to the Gardens is \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors, \$5 for children aged 3–12, free for 2 and younger.)

When: 2:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

Where: Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas CA

More information: www.qbgardens.org or call 780-436-3036

JULY 8

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY MEETING

The San Diego Geranium Society Meeting features guest speakers, plant raffles and refreshments; plant cuttings are usually available. Bring a friend, bring a plant for raffle and enjoy!

When: 7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego

More information: www.sdgeranium.org

JULY 9

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB

Come join the Ramona Garden Club for refreshments, door prize, plant swapping, plant sales and program.

When: 12:00 p.m.

Where: Ramona Women's Club, 524 Main Street, Ramona, CA

More information: www.ramonagardenclub.com

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY MEETING

Join the SDES for a fun evening centered on the epiphyllum.

When: 7:30 p.m.

Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego

More information: www.epiphyllum.com

JULY 12

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING

Come join the SDCS and learn about these wonderful plants.

When: 1:00 p.m.

Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego

More information: www.sdcss.com

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY MEETING

Join the SDBS for a bromeliad-filled evening.

When: 7:00 p.m.

Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego

For more information: www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html

JULY 14

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING

Come join the SDHS as they welcome Robert Herald, who will present "Philadelphia Gardens: Great and Small, Quaint and Queer." On this evening he will show images and narrative about an number of gardens, including Longwood Gardens, Chanticleer and some terrific private gardens. Admission for members is free; for non-members it is \$5.

When: 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Where: Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds, 260 Jimmy Durante Blvd.

Del Mar, CA

More information: www.sdhortsoc.org or call 760-295-7078

JULY 15

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING

Come join the California Native Plant Society San Diego Chapter at 6:30 p.m. for a mixer and sales table, then stay for 7:30 meeting. Free to the public.

When: 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Where: Room 101 or 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego

For more information: <http://cnpssd.org>

JULY 21

BOOK SIGNING AT QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS

CACTI, AGAVES AND YUCCAS OF CALIFORNIA AND NEVADA

Join Stephen Ingram for a presentation of his new book, *Cacti, Agaves and Yuccas of California and Nevada*. The book has 260 stunning color photos of over 50 species in bloom from San Diego County. The signing is free with admission to the Gardens. (Admission to the Gardens is \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors, \$5 for children aged 3–12, free for 2 and younger.)

When: 2:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

Where: Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas CA

More information: www.qbgardens.org or call 780-436-3036

JULY 22

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY MEETING

Join the SDDS for a dahlia-themed evening.

When: 7:30 p.m.

Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA

More information: President, David J. Tooley, 858-672-2593

JULY 23

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB MEETING

Monthly meetings are free to members. While guests are welcome, there is an admission fee of \$10 for non-members.

When: 6:30 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

Where: Mission Hills United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackson St., San Diego, CA

More information: www.missionhillsgardenclub.org

SAN DIEGO RARE FRUIT GROWERS MEETING

Learn how to monitor your rare fruit trees, by learning how to track watering, fertilizer application, soil conditioning and Soil Ph.

When: 7:00 p.m.–9:00p.m.

Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA

More information: www.crfgsandiego.org or Jose Gallego 619-261-3610

JULY 26

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY SUMMER SHOW **TWO DAY EVENT**

Join the SDCOS for their summer show in the park. It is open to the public. To volunteer at the show, email tombigger@mac.com.

When: Plant Registration: July 25, 6 p.m.–8 p.m., July 26, 8 a.m.–10 a.m.

Show: Sat., July 26, 11:30 a.m.–5 p.m., July 27, 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA

More information: www.sdorchids.com

August Events

AUGUST 2

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW **TWO DAY EVENT**

The Dahlia Show is open to the public. Enjoy the beautiful display of blooms, then join the "feeding frenzy" on Sunday afternoon when cut flowers and the display blooms are all sold for a donation.

When: 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. (Saturday, Aug. 2),

10:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m. (Sunday, Aug. 3)

Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA

More Information: President, David J. Tooley, 858-672-2593

AUGUST 5

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING

The SDCOS is holding two meetings: a general meeting and a novice class for those interested in learning more about orchids. Everyone is welcome!

When: Novice Class at 6:30 p.m., General Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Room 104 (Novice Class), Room 101 (General Meeting) at

Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA

More information: www.sdorchids.com

AUGUST 9

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING

Join the SDSCS and learn more about these wonderful plants.

When: 1:00 p.m.

Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego

More information: www.sdcss.com

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY MEETING

Join the SDBS and have your bromeliad questions answered.

When: 7:00 p.m.

Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego

For more information: www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html

AUGUST 11

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING

Horticulturalist, author and TV personality Pat Welsh will delight with a talk on "Growing and Harvesting Winter Crops." Pat has gardened in our mild seaside climate with spectacular results, and her programs are always a real treat. Admission for members is free; there is a \$5 charge for non-members.

When: 6 p.m.–9 p.m.

Where: Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds, 260 Jimmy Durante Blvd.

Del Mar, CA

More Information: www.sdhortsoc.org or call 760-295-7078

AUGUST 13

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY MEETING

Join the SDES for an epiphyllum-themed evening. The group's nominating committee will be formed this evening.

When: 7:30 p.m.

Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego

More information: www.epiphyllum.com

AUGUST 17

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE

TWO DAY EVENT

Come to the park to learn about ferns, and maybe leave with a new plant for your garden.

When: 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego

More information: www.sdfern.com

AUGUST 18

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY MEETING

The San Diego Geranium Society Meeting features guest speakers, plant raffles and refreshments; plant cuttings are usually available. Bring a friend, bring a plant for raffle and enjoy!

When: 7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego

More information: www.sdgeranium.org

AUGUST 19

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING

Come join the California Native Plant Society San Diego Chapter at 6:30 p.m. for a mixer and sales table, then stay for 7:30 meeting. Free to the public.

When: 6:30 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

Where: Room 101 or 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego

For more information: <http://cnpssd.org>

AUGUST 23

HON NON BO SHOW **TWO DAY EVENT**

Learn more about this Vietnamese art form at this weekend fair.

When: 12 p.m.–4 p.m. (Saturday, Aug. 23), 10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Sunday, Aug. 24)

Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA

For more information: Brenda Storey, 858-689-0957

AUGUST 26

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING

Join the SDDS to learn about the wonderful dahlia.

When: 7:30 p.m.

Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA

More Information: President, David J. Tooley, 858-672-2593

AUGUST 27

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB MEETING

Monthly meetings are free to members. While guests are welcome, there is an admission fee of \$10 for non-members.

When: 6:30p.m.–9:00 p.m.

Where: Mission Hills United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackson St., San Diego

More information: www.missionhillsgardenclub.org

SAN DIEGO RARE FRUIT GROWERS MEETING

Join the SDRFG for their monthly meeting and learn more about growing rare fruit in San Diego County.

When: 7:00 p.m.-9:00p.m.

Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA

More Information: www.crfgsandiego.org or Jose Gallego 619-261-3610

AUGUST 30

SAN DIEGO RARE FRUIT GROWERS SOCIETY SALE

TWO DAY EVENT

Learn more about growing rare fruit trees at this annual event.

When: 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. *Saturday, Aug. 30 and Sunday, Aug. 31)

Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA

More Information: www.crfgsandiego.org or Jose Gallego 619-261-3610

SOUTH BAY BOTANIC GARDEN SOUTH BAY GREEN SCENE

TWO DAY EVENT

Come and enjoy the new South Bay Botanic Garden's South Bay Green Scene. It will feature docent tours of the Garden, garden clubs and floral association's selling plants and sharing their involvement in horticulture. There will also be vendor displays and sales. Exotic ice cream will be available—music and other activities will complete the day.

When: 9:00 a.m.- 4:00p.m.

Where: Southwestern Community College, 900 Otay Lakes Rd, Chula Vista,

More Information: Darlene Montgomery duontig@live.com or

Bill Homyak whomyak@swccd.edu

Gardening Classes

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY, PT. LOMA GARDENING CLASS

Learn a variety of gardening tricks every Saturday morning by attending a free class at Walter Andersen Nursery's Pt. Loma Nursery. Please contact the store for a schedule of events.

When: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m., every Saturday

Where: Walter Andersen's Pt. Loma, 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego, CA

More Information: www.walterandersen.com

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY, POWAY GARDENING CLASS

Come join others at Walter Andersen's Poway store for a free, weekly seasonal garden lecture. Please contact the store for a schedule of events.

When: 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., every Saturday

Where: Walter Andersen's Poway, 12755 Danielson Court, Poway, CA

More Information: www.walterandersen.com

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN CLASSES

The Water Conservation Garden provides a number of entertaining, information-packed courses covering the most topical gardening topics and presented by skilled and knowledgeable experts. Please contact the Water Conservation Garden for program details and any applicable fees.

When: Contact for program-specific times.

Where: 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, CA

More Information: www.thegarden.org, 619-660-0614, x10



Walks, Tours & Garden Events

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS TOUR

Come and meet up at the Visitor's Center for a weekly tour of the Quail Botanical Gardens. No reservations required. Free with admission.

When: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., every Saturday

Where: Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas CA

More Information: www.qbgardens.org

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS: CHILDREN'S EVENTS

The Quail Botanical Garden offers a number of events specially designed to entertain and educate children and their caregivers. Please contact Quail Botanical Gardens for a complete listing of their scheduled events.

When: Ongoing—contact for program-specific times.

Where: Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas CA

More Information: www.qbgardens.org

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS: CHILDREN'S EVENTS

The Quail Botanical Garden offers a number of events for adults and families. Please contact Quail Botanical Gardens for a complete listing of their scheduled events.

When: Contact for program-specific times.

Where: Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas CA

More Information: www.qbgardens.org

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN TOUR

Enjoy a docent-led tour of the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College.

When: Every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and every Sunday at 1:30 p.m.

Where: Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, CA

More Information: <http://thegarden.org>

CNPS NATIVE PLANT WALK

Join landscape architect and member of the CNPS San Diego Chapter Kay Stewart for a two-hour, easy walk into Tecolote Canyon and back. Along the way you'll study and learn about the plants. This guided walk is free.

When: 9 a.m. – 11 a.m., first Sunday of the month

Where: Tecolote Canyon Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road San Diego, CA

More Information: <http://cnpsd.org>

BUENA CREEK GARDENS FREE GARDEN TOUR

Join Steve Brigham for this free, monthly garden tour.

When: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., second Saturday of each month

Where: Buena Creek Gardens, 418 Buena Creek Rd. San Marcos, CA

More Information: www.buenacreekgardens.com

SAN DIEGO CHINESE HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND GARDEN

Come visit the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum's exquisite Asian garden.

When: 10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday; 12 p.m. – 4 p.m., Sunday

Where: San Diego Chinese Historical Museum and Garden, 404 3rd Ave., San Diego, CA

More Information: www.sdchm.org/garden

Balboa Park Events

SAN DIEGO ZOO

Visit the world famous San Diego Zoo for Plant Days and Orchid Odyssey.

When: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., third Friday of each month

Where: San Diego Zoo, 2920 Zoo Drive, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA

More Information: www.sandiegozoo.com

SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

Enhance your well-being with a visit to this Japanese-style garden.

There is a \$4 fee for adults, \$2.50 fee for Seniors (55+), children and military with I.D.

When: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday

Where: San Diego Japanese Friendship Garden, 2215 Pan American Road, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA

More Information: www.niwa.org

BALBOA PARK OFFSHOOT TOURS

Learn about Balboa Park's plants as volunteer horticulturists lead visitors on free, one-hour themed walks. (Inclement weather and low-turnout cancels the tour.)

When: 10 a.m., every Saturday starting January 12

Where: Balboa Park Visitor Center, 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA

More Information: www.balboapark.org

BALBOA PARK INTERPRETIVE WALKS

Join volunteer-guides on this free, history-oriented walk through Balboa Park.

When: 1 p.m., every Tuesday

Where: Balboa Park Visitor Center, 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA

More Information: www.balboapark.org

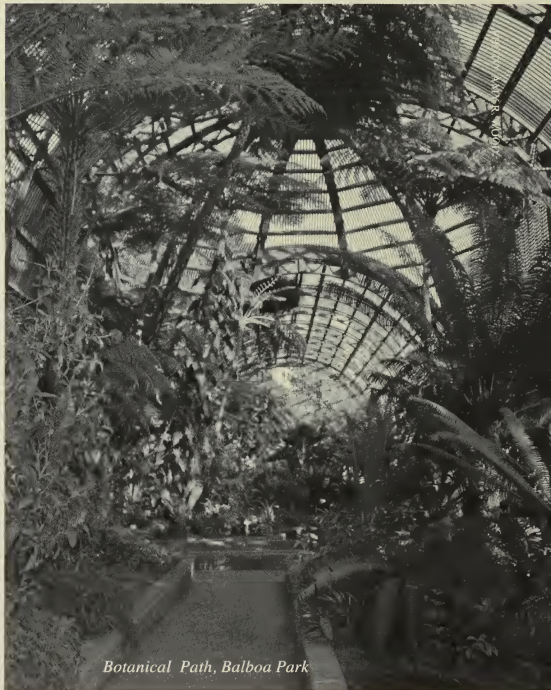
SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM CANYONEER WALKS

Join trained volunteer guides on a local canyon walks. There is a \$2 fee.

When: Times vary; check website for specific event details

Where: Locations vary; check website for specific event details

More Information: www.sdnhm.org/canyoneers



Botanical Path, Balboa Park

Farmers' Markets

Buying locals is not only a great way to support local farmers, but also a great way to know where your food is coming from. Below is a list of the county's farmers markets, as certified by the San Diego Farm Bureau. Visit one near you!

SUNDAYS

HILLCREST FARMERS' MARKET

When: 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Where: DMV parking lot at 3960 Normal St. and Lincoln St., San Diego, CA

More Information: David Larson, 619-237-1632 or drlinbaja@hotmail.com

LA JOLLA FARMERS' MARKET

When: 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Where: La Jolla Elementary School at Girard Ave., La Jolla, CA

More Information: www.lajollamarket.com, or contact Darcy Young at darcyyoung@verizon.net

LEUCADIA/ENCINITAS FARMERS' MARKET

When: 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Where: Paul Ecke Elementary at Union St. and Vulcan St., Encinitas, CA

More Information: Ron La Chance, 858-272-7054

SOLANA BEACH FARMERS' MARKET

When: 2:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Where: Rose St. and Cedrose, Solana Beach, 92075

More Information: 858-755-0444

THIRD AVENUE/SAN DIEGO FARMERS' MARKET

When: 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Where: Downtown San Diego at Third Ave. and J St., San Diego, CA

More Information: David Klamann, 619-279-0032

TUESDAY

CORONADO FARMERS' MARKET

When: 2:30 p.m.–6 p.m.

Where: Old Ferry Landing at First St. and B Ave., Coronado, CA

More Information: Mary Hillebrecht, 760-741-3763

ESCONDIDO FARMERS' MARKET

When: 2:30 p.m.–6 p.m. (4:00 p.m.–7 p.m. during summer months)

Where: Grand Ave. between Juniper and Kalmia St., Escondido, CA

More Information: www.downtownescondido.com/farmers.html, or Debra Rosen, 760-745-8877

WEDNESDAY

CARLSBAD FARMERS' MARKET

When: 1:00 p.m.–5 p.m.

Where: Roosevelt St. between Grand Ave. and Carlsbad Village Dr., Carlsbad, CA

More Information: www.shopcarlsbadvillage.org/events/farmersmarket.html or Christy Johnson, 760-434-2553

OCEAN BEACH FARMERS' MARKET

When: 4:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. (4:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. during the summer months)

Where: 4900 block of Newport Ave. between Cable St. and Bacon St., San Diego, CA

More Information: David Klamann, 619-279-0032

TEMECULA FARMERS' MARKET

When: 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Where: Promenade Mall across from Edwards Theatres, Temecula, CA

More Information: www.temeculafarmersmarket.com, or Gayle Cunningham, 760-728-7343

THURSDAY

CHULA VISTA FARMERS' MARKET

When: 3:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m. (3:00 p.m.–7 p.m. during the summer months)

Where: Downtown Chula Vista at Center St. and Third Ave., Chula Vista, CA

More Information: John Ward, 619-422-1982

HORTON SQUARE/SAN DIEGO FARMERS' MARKET

When: 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. (March through October)

Where: 225 Broadway and Broadway Circle, San Diego, CA

More Information: Mary Hillebrecht, 760-741-3763

NORTH PARK FARMERS' MARKET

When: 3:00 p.m.–Sunset

Where: CVS Pharmacy parking lot at University and 32nd St., San Diego, CA

More Information: David Larson, 619-237-1632 or drlinbaja@hotmail.com

OCEANSIDE FARMERS' MARKET

When: 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Where: Coast Hwy and Pier View Way, Oceanside, CA

More Information: Suzanne Bendixen, 619-440-5027

OCEANSIDE SUNSET MARKET

When: 5:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

Where: Tremont and Pier View Way, Oceanside, CA

More Information: Lisa Hamel, 760-754-4512

TIERRASANTA FARMERS' MARKET

When: 3:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

Where: De Portola Middle School at 11010 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. and Santo Rd., San Diego, CA

More Information: Ron LaChance, 858-272-7054

FRIDAY

RANCHO BERNARDO FARMERS' MARKET

When: 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Where: Bernardo Winery parking lot at 13330 Paseo del Verano Norte, Rancho Bernardo, CA

More Information: Mike Machor, 760-723-2469 or rexsranch@att.net

SATURDAY

CARLSBAD FARMERS' MARKET

When: 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Where: Roosevelt St. between Grand Ave. and Carlsbad Village Dr., Carlsbad, CA

More Information: www.shopcarlsbadvillage.org/events/farmersmarket.html or Christy Johnson, 760-434-2553

DEL MAR FARMERS' MARKET

When: 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

Where: City Hall parking lot at Camino Del Mar between 10th St. and 11th St., Del Mar, CA

More Information: Alan Usery, 760-727-1771

PACIFIC BEACH FARMERS' MARKET

When: 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Where: Promenade Mall on Mission Blvd. between Reed and Pacific Beach Blvd., San Diego, CA

More Information: Mary Hillebrecht, 760-741-3763

POWAY FARMERS' MARKET

When: 8:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

Where: Old Poway Park at Midland Rd. and Temple, Poway, CA

More Information: Suzanne Bendixen, 619-440-5027

SCRIPPS RANCH FARMERS' MARKET

When: 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Where: Ellen Browning Scripps Elementary School at Scripps Poway Parkway and Spring Canyon Rd., Poway, CA

More Information: www.srfm.org, Bev and Mike Cassidy, 858-586-7933

TEMECULA FARMERS' MARKET

When: 8:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Where: Old Town Temecula at 6th and Front St., Temecula, CA

More Information: www.temeculafarmersmarket.com, Gayle Cunningham, 760-728-7343

VISTA FARMERS' MARKET

When: 7:45 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

Where: City Hall parking lot at Eucalyptus Ave. and Escondido Ave., Vista, CA

More Information: Mark Wall, 760-945-7425 or mark@vistafarmersmarket.com

Continued on page 37



SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

Garden Center and Library – Founded in 1907

1650 El Prado #105, San Diego, CA 92101-1684 619-232-5762 Located in Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park

Under the sponsorship of the Park & Recreation Department, City of San Diego, California

**Mission Statement: To Promote The Knowledge And Appreciation
Of Horticulture And Floriculture In The San Diego Region.**

GENERAL MEETINGS

2008

February 19

April 15

June 17

October 21

Casa del Prado, Room 101
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(For more information on San Diego County Certified Farmers' Markets, visit www.sdfarmbureau.org.)

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Valencia oranges, various cut flowers

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Do you have an event, class or meeting that you'd like to let *California Garden* readers know about? If so, please email calendar@sdfloal.org with your group's name, the meeting date and time, meeting place, any applicable fees, event program and contact information. You may also submit the above information via regular mail, sent to Calendar Editor, San Diego Floral Association, 1650 El Prado Room 105, San Diego, CA 92101. Space is limited, so please get in touch today to ensure inclusion! The deadline for the upcoming Sep/Oct 2008 issue is July 10, 2008; the deadline for the Nov/Dec 2008 issue is September 10, 2008.



September and October 1915

Dahlias

have long been a passion for San Diego gardeners and Alfred D. Robinson, first editor of California Garden, was a huge fan of this beautiful flower. In 1915 he wrote a series of articles about dahlias including preferences, propagation, and care throughout the year. Two are excerpted here, one extols the flowers he saw on a trip to San Francisco, the second offers seasonal care. This is the same year, 1915, that both San Diego and San Francisco hosted expositions to celebrate the opening of the Panama Canal.

THE DAHLIA

September

Need I say that I paid particular attention to the Dahlias during my recent stay in San Francisco? I find my notes quite cryptic, and do not guarantee that the names are strictly correct but am sure that I saw fine blooms labeled with just about the same number of letters.

In the Holland section of the Exposition gardens I selected three dahlias, *Hortulanus Flet* (that name is correct, I have verified it) a very large creamy pink with deeper markings of the decorative type; *Wodan*, that is no novelty and *Souvenir de Maurice Rivoire*; and in other departments *Snowden*, a white cactus, *bertha von Suttner*, a yellow, and *Walkure* a big sulphur yellow.

In Golden Gate Park by the conservatory these pleased me, *Lucifer*, *Miss T. G. Baker*, *Enchantress*, *E. E. Wilkins* and *Countess of Malmesburg*. That they seemed worthy of record is all the information that remains besides their names, still I shall try them if procurable and readers must do as they please... (further varieties are described).

Seeing a bunch of *Geisha* dahlias in a florist's window I went in and found the proprietor another one as far as dahlias were concerned. His interest in them was as a cut flower possibility and he regarded as requisites a long stiff stem carrying the bloom straight without a neck and of course free flowering habit and good keeping quality. His pet so far was a ruddy purple, if there be such a thing, named *Minnie Kittwell* (?) and he pridefully exhibited some that had been in the store two days...

Perhaps with the one exception of fuchsias, dahlias are most generally found in the gardens of San Francisco. The old stiff magenta balls are in the tiny plots that front the old scroll saw houses and the lovely new things around the lawns of the severe square modern structures.

Returning to San Diego my respect for the dahlia is enhanced a hundredfold, it is so adaptable. In the city of the north it fitted in with cloudy skies and overcoats, here it makes a riot of color in brilliant sunshine. In the north it grows low, makes less stem to its flowers, but is even in color and flowers rule larger.

My beds of *Deazon* that I left with some hundred great flowers, on my return had doubled their height and nodded more than a thousand heads at me, a glorious color effect that amply offset the loss in size of individual bloom. Once again I plead

for beds of one variety. Because of the absence of such I saw no effective dahlia planting up north. Perhaps I should modify this by stating that I was told of a very large single variety planting.

There is not much that can be said as to care of plants that has not already been told. All seed pods must be kept off and spent wood pruned right back, keep fertilizing and water. Be sure and make your plants before they quit blooming, and arrange your plantings for next year now while the color and habit is before you. If you have a neighbor that has a heterogeneous mixture like yours, trade around, give him your pinks for his reds or vice versa. Should you want to replace your dahlias with something else cut off the tops but don't dig the tubers right away, but if you must bury them again for a while in sand or dry earth as they are not mature.

October

Have you tagged your dahlias so that at planting time you can tell the color and habit of growth, it must be done while blooms still linger. This is important for you are going to group with a color scheme next year or be out of style.

Don't be in a hurry to dig up tubers, if you have cut the tops back give the tubers a chance to ripen. Don't dig seedlings the first season at all, their tubers are apt to be so small that they will dry up out of the ground.

I have found the best way to winter tubers is to place them upright under a tree, where the sun strikes occasionally. When I put them in complete shade several rotted. They must not be placed on top of one another and care should be taken in digging and moving so as to leave the clump intact.

In digging don't just ram in a spade and try and pry out the whole thing, make a large hole working from the outer edge and carefully expose the whole clump from all sides. If possible leave them where dug for a few days in the sun, which will harden the skin and prevent injury to it which frequently starts rot.

Do eliminate. You cannot have all varieties, their number is like the sand on the seashore. Grow more of the good ones. At the end of another season I find myself once more forced to the conclusion that as a bedder no dahlia yet grown in quantities approaches *Souvenir de Gustav Doazon*. Reference to my diary shows that it was blooming on July 1st and at this writing it is still full of good flowers, October 6th. Its foliage shows no sign of mildew and its color tends to deepen as the weather grows cooler, and for all these weeks it has never slackened, or looked shabby.

Another point that has entered my consciousness is how little attention is paid to these articles. All spring I preached "plant *Geisha* dahlia." Yet I have not seen one in a private garden, but I am not discouraged and at once begin to spiel for this red and gold glory for 1916. The dahlia must have a place and a big place in the Exposition grounds next year. It would have done wonderfully along the walk back of the buildings to the North.



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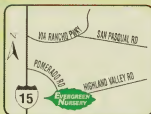
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